**SET OF SAMPLE TEST PAPER FOR INTERVIEW**

**1. Why do you think you are the right candidate for this Ph.D. program?**

ANS- “I completed a Master’s Degree in Environmental Science, specifically focusing on the effects of global warming on water resources in Africa. After earning my degree, I spent a gap year traveling through Africa in where I learned more about the water problems in many countries. As this Ph.D. program concerns the access and availability of alternative water resources, it strongly aligns with my previous research and my field of interest. I would like to use my research to make a difference in the lives of many groups in Africa.”

**2. Why do you think you are the right candidate for this Ph.D. program?**

ANS- “When I was earning my master’s degree, I tutored first-year students and quickly realized that I enjoy sharing my knowledge with others. I also feel comfortable and energized in an academic environment. For these reasons, I want to continue my studies with a Ph.D. so I can pursue a career as a lecturer, and hopefully one day, as a professor. I am passionate about my research in global economics, and I think it is a very relevant topic in our world today. I am excited about furthering my knowledge in this field and hope to make a valuable academic contribution.”

**3. Why do you think you are the right candidate for this Ph.D. program?**

ANS- I have had a clear vision of what career I would like to pursue since I earned my bachelor’s degree. After I have completed my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, I want to earn my license and open my own practice. I plan to specialize in group therapy to help individuals learn how to express themselves and understand how they contribute to their community.”

**4. Why do you think you are the right candidate for this Ph.D. program?**

ANS- Since I wish a junior in high school, I have dreamed of joining this English department, since it’s one of the best in the country. I especially appreciate the work of Professor Meyer and know that he is one of the top academics in transnational crime fiction. It is because of his work that I decided to earn my master’s in this field. I would be honored to have him as my Ph.D. adviser.”

**5. Why do you think you are the right candidate for this Ph.D. program?**

ANS- I am passionate about increasing environmental awareness. That is why I initially enrolled in an environmental science degree. For my master’s research, I started focusing on bringing environmental education programs to developing countries. My Ph.D. research will be an extension of my master’s degree, as I want to develop free environmental education software for schools in underfunded areas.

**6. Why have you applied to do a PhD here?**

ANS- This is where research can give you an edge. Show that you have chosen this programme/department/university for strong and valid reasons, such as your high regard for named researchers’ work, the availability of specific collections, equipment, or lab resources, and overall reputation. Give concrete examples, not banal generalities.

**7. What can you do for us?**

ANS- Academics will have to give up a great deal of time to supervise you, most of which they will receive no scheduled hours or recognition for. So, what research skills, personal attributes, connections, theoretical ideas and so on do you have that will make it worth their while? Again, give specific and concrete examples.

**8. What do you think pursuing a PhD will do for you?**

ANS- If you plan to become an academic, say so, but not in terms of just getting a job—talk about your long-term research plans. If applying to a professional doctorate programme, show that you understand the realistic career impact. Applicants pursuing a PhD towards the end of their career may want to talk about gaining recognition for innovative practice or solving complex issues through research. It is important to showcase your knowledge, motivation, background and commitment at this point.

**9. What skills do you have that make you a good fit for the PhD place you have applied for or for the department?**

ANS- Tailor your response specifically: Play up your strengths, including any prior research training and experience. Discuss project management skills, leadership skills, interpersonal skills, collaborative working, critical thinking and international experience or understanding.

**10. Tell us about your research project.**

ANS- If proposing your own topic, over-prepare. Refer to current scholarship and explain how your cutting-edge work will break new ground. If applying to join a project, show that you understand its value and demonstrate that you are the right person to make it happen. Be enthusiastic!